Scholar LC 218 Rutile Series

# 月と水の夜 第一巻

梶原にき

niki kajiwara

SCHOLAR LC 218 RUTILE SERIES

A NIGHT OF MOON AND WATER

月と水の夜 第一巻

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Tsuki to Mizu no Yoru
"A Night of Moon & Water"
Volume 01 Chapter 01

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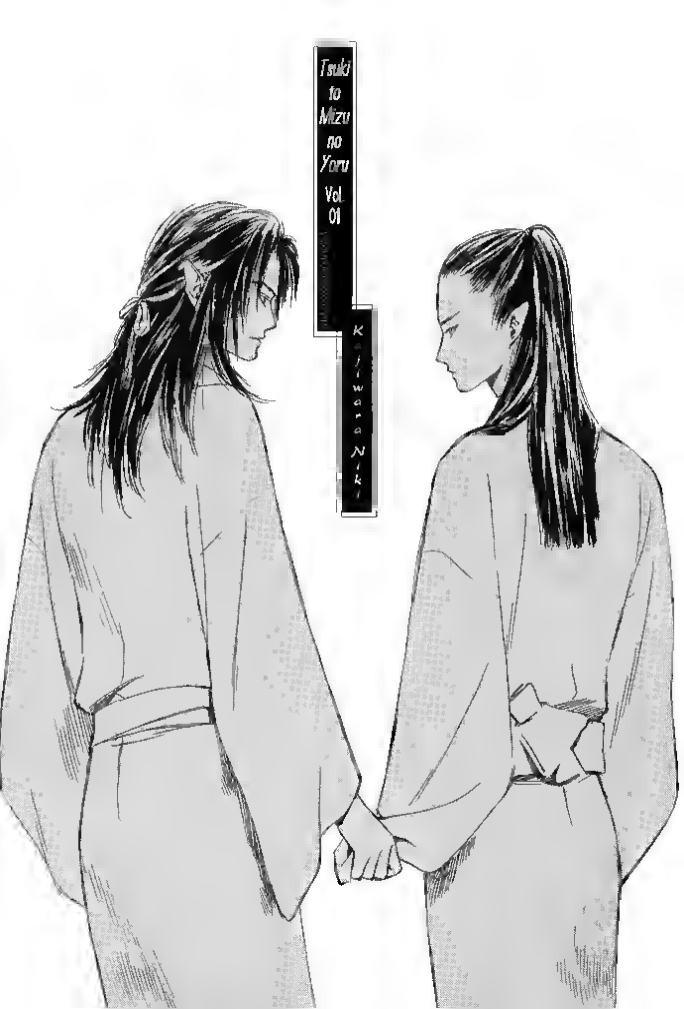
STORM IN HEAVEN

Tsukito Mizuno Yara


Tsuki to Mizu no Yoru
Vol. 01
Kaiwan Niki

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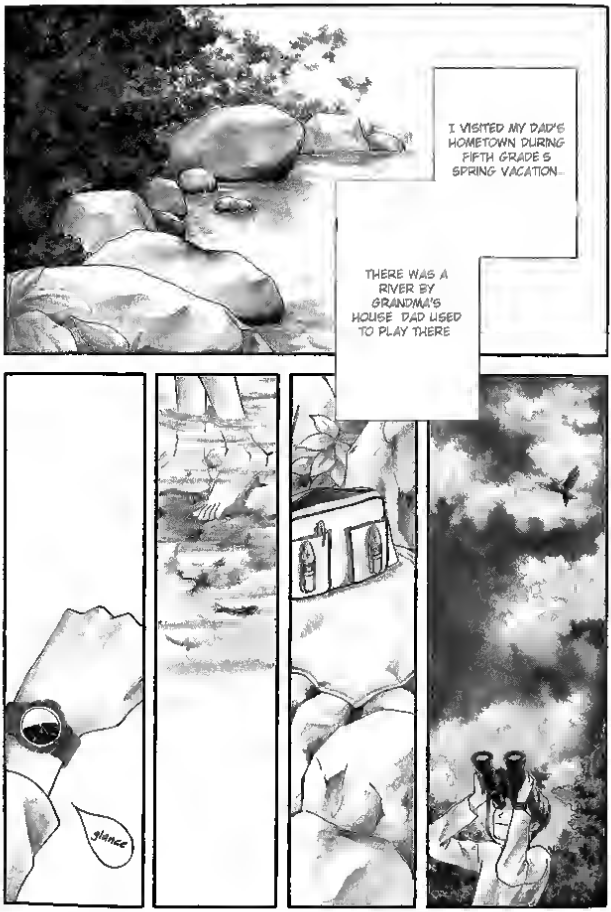
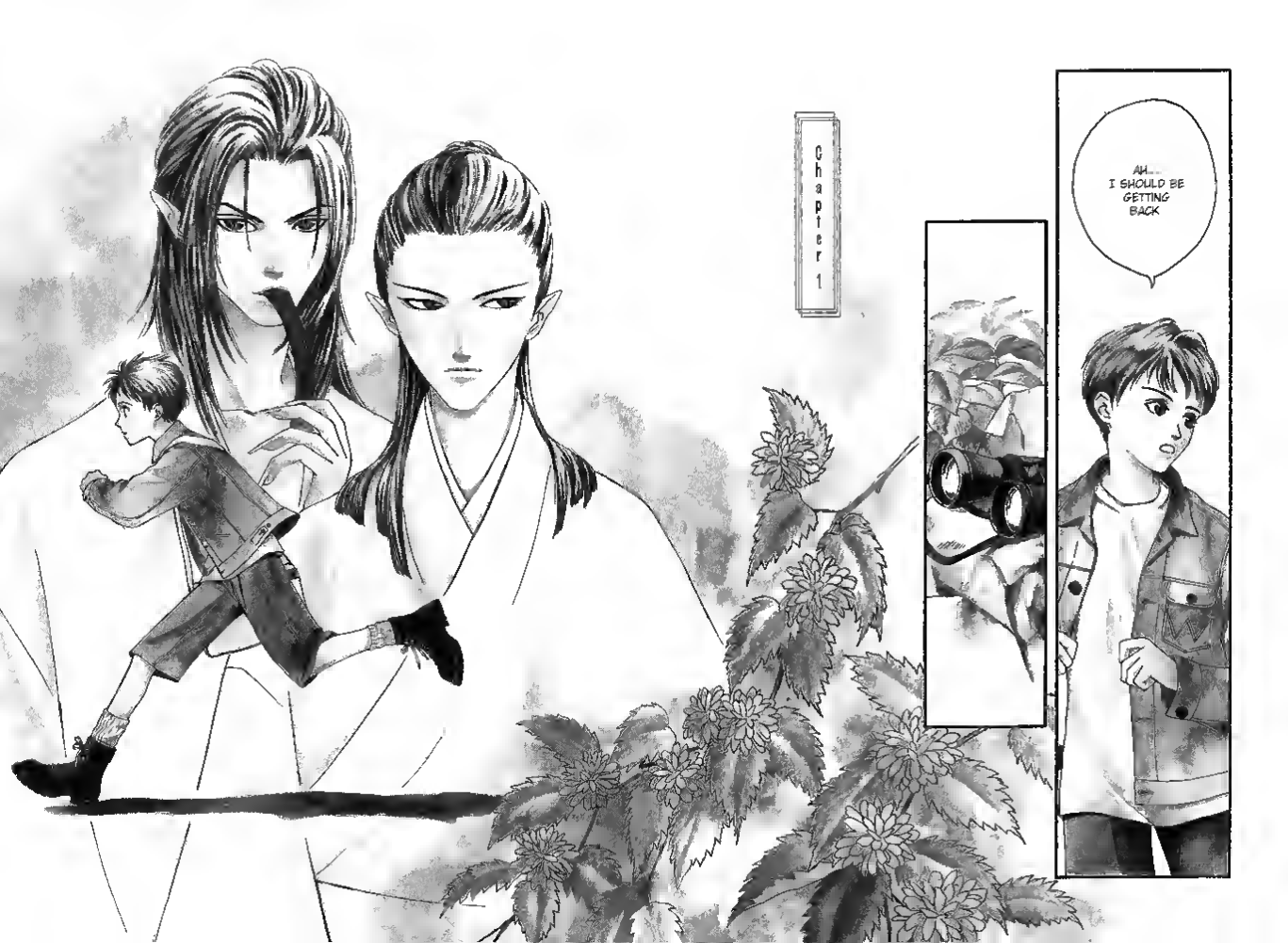
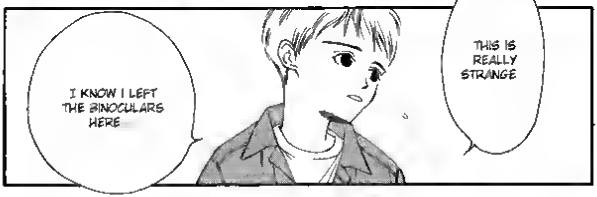

I VISITED MY DAD'S HOMETOWN DURING FIFTH GRADE'S SPRING VACATION.
THERE WAS A RIVER BY GRANDMA'S HOUSE DAD USED TO PLAY THERE
glance


Chapter 1
AH... I SHOULD BE GETTING BACK

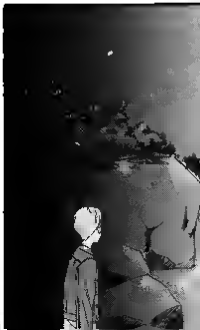
AH!
WHAT'S UP, YOSHIHARU?
AH... NOTHING.
I FORGOT DAD'S BINOCULARS...
I DIDN'T BRING THEM BACK WITH ME...
GRANDMA, I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT!
IT'S GONE

YOSHIHARU!!
DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. DON'T TELL DAD, OK?
AGAIN? BUT IT'S ALREADY DARK!
YOSHIHARU FORGOT TO BRING THE BINOCULARS BACK.
Forget it. Boys will be boys.
REALLY, THIS KID...

IF I RECALL CORRECTLY...
THINGS LOST BY THE RIVER CAN BE FOUND QUICKLY...


THIS IS REALLY STRANGE
I KNOW I LEFT THE BINOCULARS HERE...

climb



NOTHING...
I'D BETTER GO BACK AND APOLOGIZE FIRST
I'LL RETURN TOMORROW MORNING TO SEARCH WHEN IT'S BRIGHTER
GULP
AH...

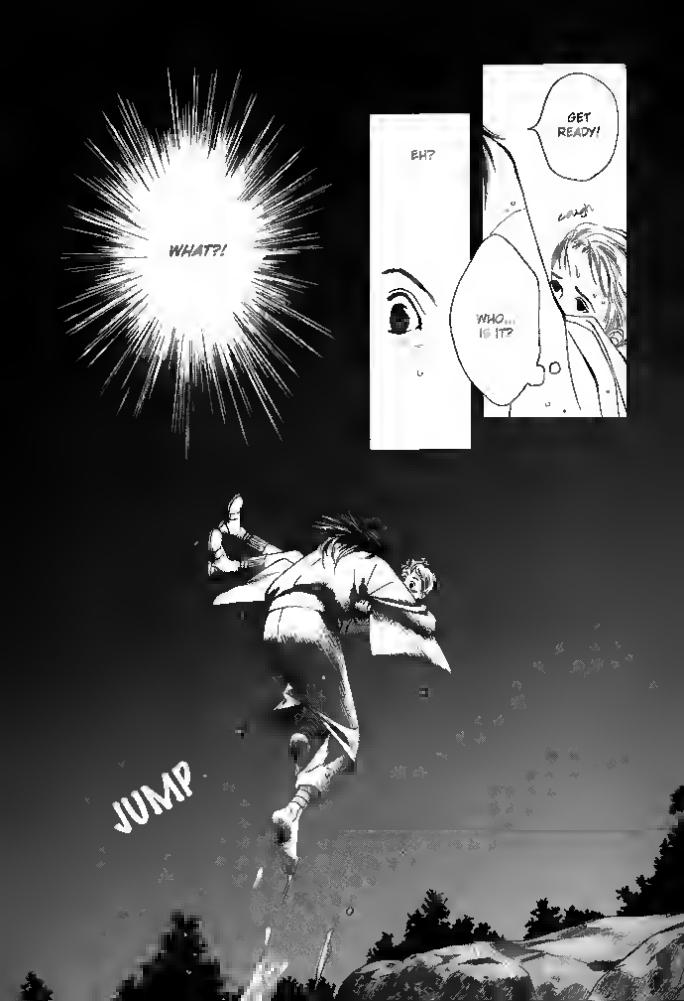
DAMN!
glug
SPLASH!
!!
scrape
HELP...!

OH NO I CAN'T FLOAT!
I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHICH WAY IS UP!!
WHISH

I CAN'T BREATHE. .
AM I DYING?

SPLASH!

cough!
ARE YOU OK? YOU KEEP COUGHING. ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING?
cough
cough
cough
MAYBE WE OUGHT TO GO TO THAT ROCK OVER THERE FIRST....?
WELL?

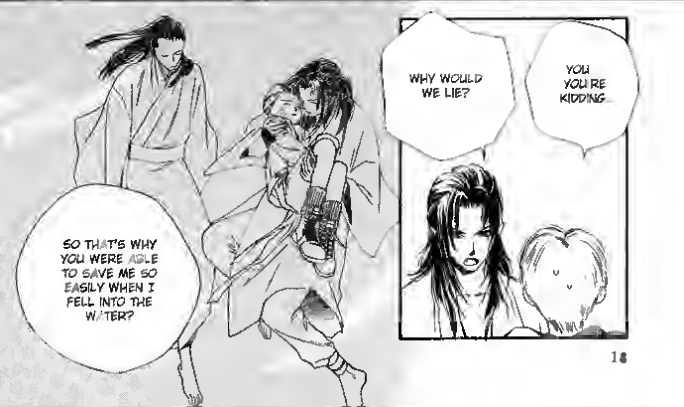

GET READY!
WHO... IS IT?
EH?
WHAT?!
JUMP

TAP
YOU GUYS...
EH? THAT'S STRANGE...
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
Hey this kid keeps coughing...
cough
cough
cough
cough
cough
WHAT JUST

cough
CALM DOWN,
BREATHE SLOWLY
TH...
THANK YOU BOTH... BUT WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT?

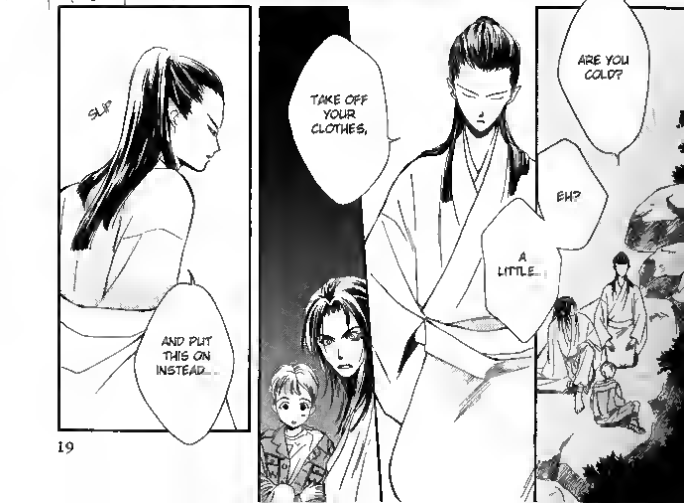
WE'RE WATER SPRITES
CAN'T YOU TELL?

WATER SPRITES! THE KIND OF SPRITES THAT LIVE IN WATER!
I can't tell
EH?


WHY WOULD WE LIE?
YOU YOU'RE KIDDING
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WERE ABLE TO SAVE ME SO EASILY WHEN I FELL INTO THE WATER?

* NOTE. IN JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY, THE WATER SPIRITE (KAPPA) HAS A PLATE-LIKE HOLE ON IT'S HEAD WHICH IS FILLED WITH WATER. THE SPRITES DERIVE THEIR POWER FROM THIS WATER AND ARE SERIOUSLY WEAKENED IF THE WATER DRAINS OUT

IDIOT! WOULD WE LEAVE OUR WEAK POINT OUT IN THE OPEN?
It's under the hair
THEN WHAT ABOUT THE PLATE ON YOUR HEAD?*
IN THAT CASE,
THEY REALLY DID JUMP IN TO RESCUE ME



AH...OKAY...
THAT'S STRANGE. IT ISN'T WET.
THAT'S BECAUSE THE MATERIAL IT'S WOVEN WITH HAS A SPECIAL OIL RUBBED INTO IT
OH...
SILENCE
WHAT IS IT?
BUT HEY, IF YOU'RE A WATER SPRITE, DON'T YOU HAVE SCALES OR SOMETHING TO PROTECT YOU?
OF COURSE

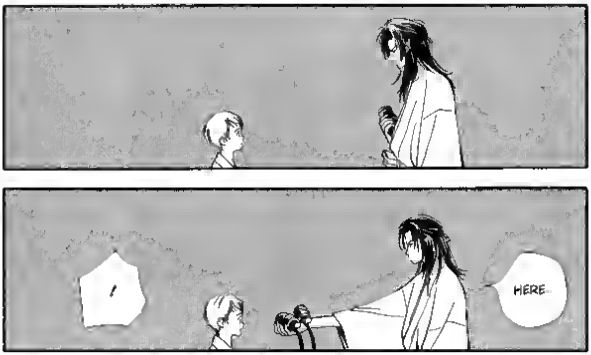
YOU REALLY ARE A WATER SPRITE! HOW COOL IS THAT?
YEAH! WHOA IT'S REALLY HARD!
FLIME
CAN YOU FEEL IT?
AND JUST WHY ARE YOU HERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
GRAB
AH!
ENOUGH ALREADY! STOP TOUCHING HIM!
AH ___ FOUND IT!
AH ___
I CAME HERE TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING
Why's he angry?

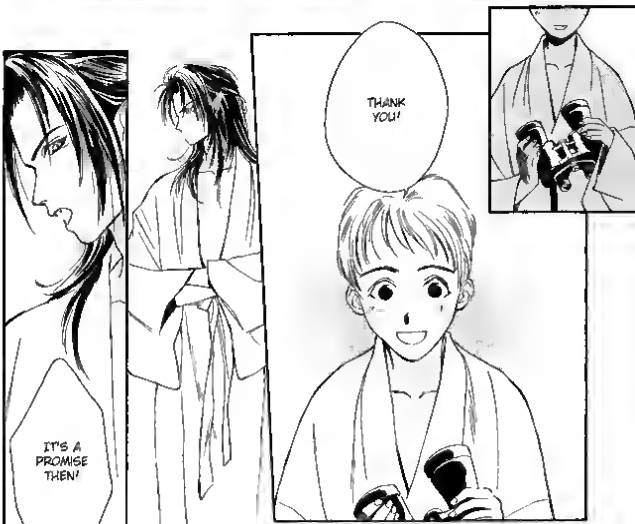
WAH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BRAT?!
THESE ARE THE BINOCULARS THAT I LEFT OUT HERE!
ARE THEY REALLY?
YEAH. THEY'RE REALLY VERY IMPORTANT TO ME...
I'M NOT GIVING THEM TO YOU!
THEY'RE MINE! I FOUND THEM!
BUT...
I BORROWED THOSE BINOCULARS FROM DAD. I HAVE TO RETURN THEM TO HIM.
I DON'T CARE!

I'M NOT GIVING IT BACK!
I LIKE THIS THING. I CAN SEE FAR AWAY WITH IT.
NAKICHI...

IT'S REALLY UPSETTING HIM. WHY DON'T YOU JUST RETURN IT TO HIM?
SEITA, YOU ALWAYS SIDE WITH THE HUMANS!
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT!
THAT'S WHY I'M NOT RETURNING IT TO HIM!
BUT...
I'VE STILL GOT TO GO TO SCHOOL, AND GRANDMA'S HOUSE IS SO FAR SO I CAN'T COME HERE EVERY DAY
BUT I COULD BORROW THE BINOCULARS DURING MY NEXT LONG VACATION...
AND BRING THEM HERE FOR YOU
ISN'T THAT OK?

THOSE BINOCULARS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO DAD...
IF I LOSE THEM, I'M IN BIG TROUBLE...
PLEASE?
...


!
HERE


THANK YOU!
IT'S A PROMISE THEN!

OKAY!
YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE THOUGH!
WE'LL BE HERE WHEN THE MOON'S FULL
I UNDERSTAND.
WHEN THERE'S A FULL MOON,
AH...YOUR CLOTHING...
IT'S OK. YOU CAN KEEP IT.
I'LL COME HERE.

BYE! I WON'T FORGET TO BRING THE BINOCULARS BACK!
DON'T FORGET!
SEITA, YOU'RE STILL AS FOND OF HUMANS AS EVER.
DO YOU HATE HUMAN CHILDREN, NAKICHI?
NOT PARTICULARLY...I JUST DON'T LIKE THEM TOUCHING YOU.
JUST LIKE THAT KID FROM TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO.

THAT'S WHY YOU RULLY THEM?
POOR THINGS
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS — !
patter
patter

THAT WASN'T A DREAM
I'VE GOT THIS FEELING...
TO ACTUALLY WEAR SOMETHING LIKE THIS BACK...
THAT SUCH BEAUTIFUL WATER SPRITES ACTUALLY LIVED NEAR THE RIVER BY GRANDMA'S HOUSE
I NEVER IMAGINED...
THE NEXT TIME I MEET THEM, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BRING THEM SOME OF THEIR FAVOURITE PUMPKINS
COOL—!
bdmp bdmp bdmp bdmp

GOT THE BINOCULARS?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
AS I EXPECTED
FATHER!
YOU'RE LATE, YOSHIHARU.

I... I'M SORRY...
IT'S OKAY, AS LONG AS YOU'RE FINE
BUT WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?
AH... THIS...
IS THIS... SEITA'S ROBE?
SO YOU'VE MET THEM TOO
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
EH?

HOW ARE THEY? NAKICHI AND SEITA? ARE THEY WELL?
YEAH
I ALSO LOST SOMETHING OF GRANDPA'S BACK THEN
NAKICHI WOULDN'T RETURN IT TO ME, SO I CRIED AND BEGGED
LOOKS LIKE NAKICHI'S STILL VERY ENERGETIC
COME ON IN AND CHANGE BEFORE YOU CATCH A COLD
OKAY
IT'S JUST LIKE BEFORE

FATHER...
I MADE A PROMISE WITH THEM.
I'VE GOT TO MEET THEM AT THE NEXT FULL MOON...

*Tsuki to Mizu no Yoru*
*Volume 01 Chapter 02*

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STORM IN HEAVEN

CHAPTER TWO
chirp
chirp

SEI...
Zzzz
COME TO THINK OF IT...

WE'VE BEEN STAYING TOGETHER...
FOR A WHILE NOW
MOST WATER SPRITES LIVE ALONE
BECAUSE WE ARE VERY TERRITORIAL
RIGHT... IT'S BEEN THIRTY-FIVE YEARS—
chirp

THE PLACE THAT I USED TO LIVE AT HAD BEEN OVERRUN BY HUMANS
BECAUSE I ALWAYS LOOKED IN ON THEM, I DIDN'T HATE THEM BUT I COULDN'T LIVE TOGETHER WITH THEM.
THAT'S WHY I'D BEEN MOVING NORTH FOR SEVERAL DAYS
chirp
chirp

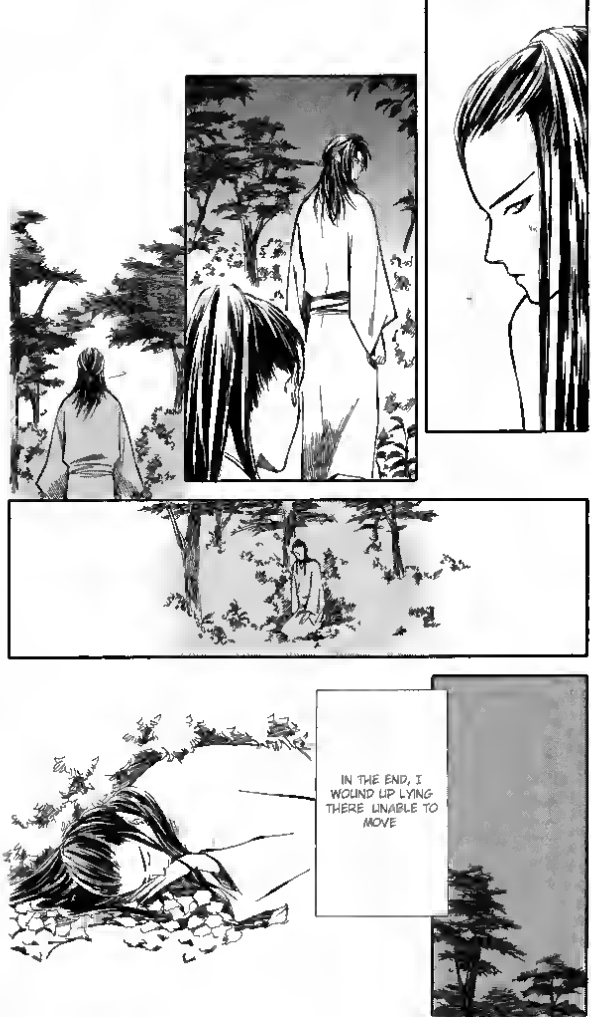
IF I COULD JUST MAKE IT TO THE RIVER...
I... CAN'T MOVE MY LEG
I'M WEAKER THAN I THOUGHT
HEY!
RUSTLE
THUD
!!
ARE YOU A WATER SPRITE?

THIS IS MY TURF,
SO CLEAR OUT!

HEY! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
I'M SORRY AS SOON AS I CAN MOVE
I'LL LEAVE RIGHT AWAY
GRAB
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?

YOUR BODY'S VERY DRY. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN WATER FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?
ARE YOU THAT FRAIL?
SLAP
DON'T TOUCH ME

SINCE YOU CAN'T MOVE ANYWAY, I'LL JUST LEAVE YOU HERE
...


IN THE END, I WOUND UP LYING THERE UNABLE TO MOVE

sniff
I'D NEVER SEEN THEM DOWN SOUTH...
I'M GOING TO DIE HERE.
IS THAT A FOX?
rustle
?

THUNK

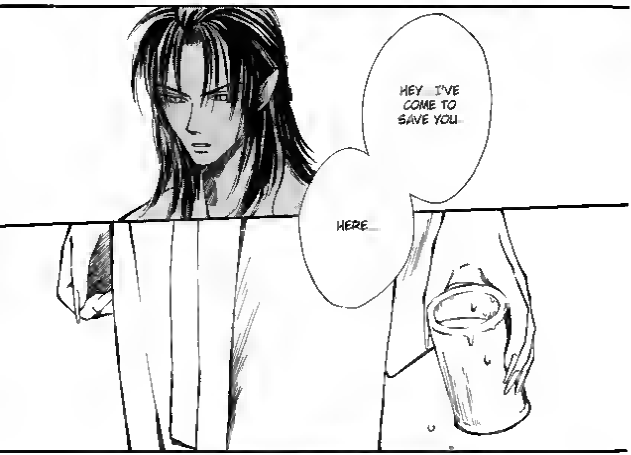
I SAW A LOT OF THINGS IN MY HAZY SUBCONSCIOUSNESS
THE SOUND OF DRAGONFLIES AND CHILDREN THAT RODE TO ME ON WAVES OF SUNLIGHT REFLECTING OFF THE NEWTS' BLACK BACKS...
THE PICTURES OF NEWTS' RED CHESTS ON THE LEAVES OF THE WHITE TREES THAT FLOATED ON THE MURKY SURFACE OF THE WATER...

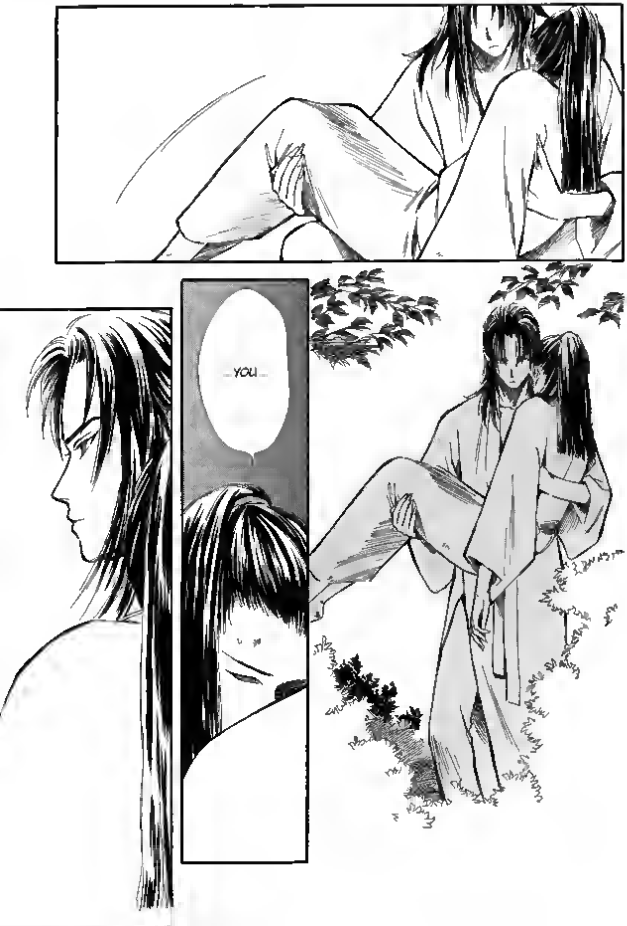
WHEN THE HUMANS CAME THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLOWLY DECLINED...

I LEFT BECAUSE I COULDN'T TELL THEM TO STOP POLLUTING THE WATER

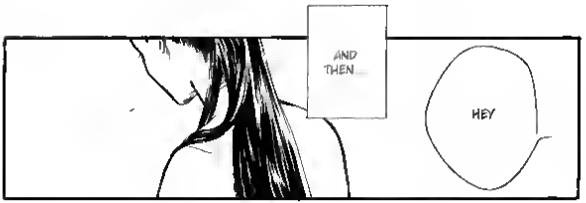
IF ONLY I COULD MOVE NOW

HEY!


HEY... I'VE COME TO SAVE YOU.
HERE...

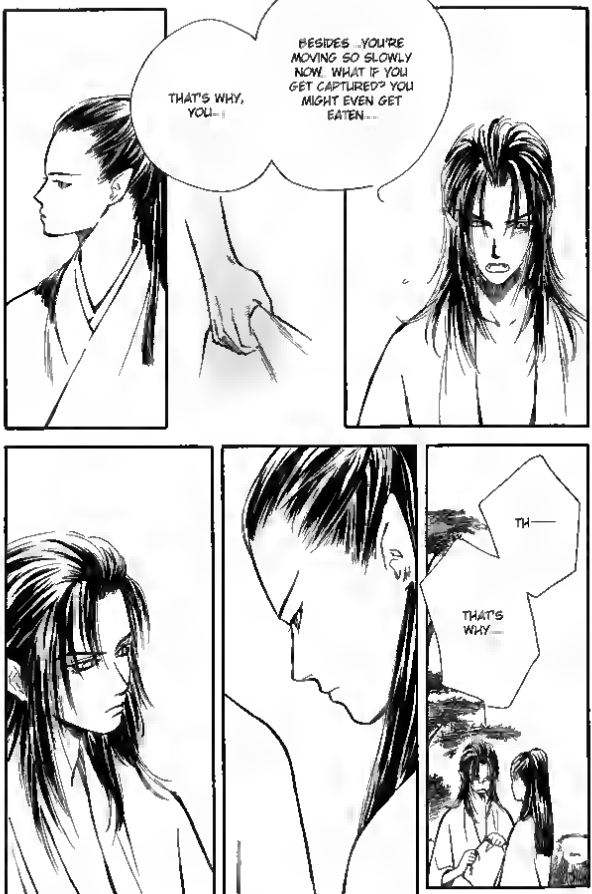

...YOU...

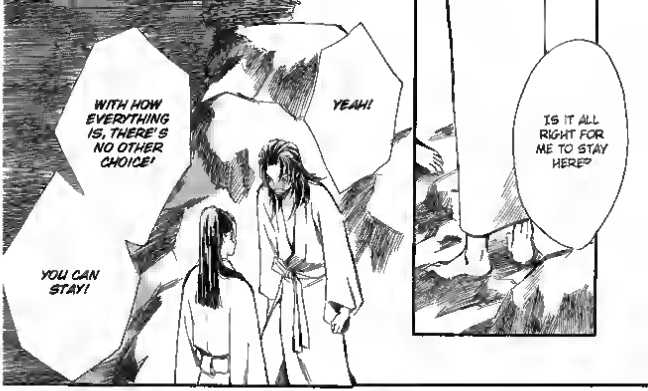
...THANK YOU...


AND THEN...
HEY

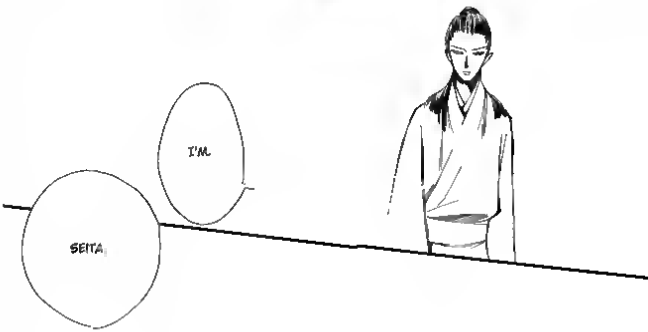
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP
ARE YOU LEAVING?
HMPH!

WHERE...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
EVEN IF YOU GO TO ANOTHER RIVER, THERE'LL BE OTHER WATER SPRITES LIVING THERE ALREADY YOU'D HAVE TO MOVE ON AGAIN
MAYBE THEIR WATER HAS ALSO BECOME POLLUTED. YOU'RE ALREADY SO WEAK IT COULD KILL YOU!


THAT'S WHY, YOU—!
BESIDES...YOU'RE MOVING SO SLOWLY NOW. WHAT IF YOU GET CAPTURED? YOU MIGHT EVEN GET EATEN...
TH—
THAT'S WHY—


IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO STAY HERE?
YEAH!
WITH HOW EVERYTHING IS, THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE!
YOU CAN STAY!

I'M NAKICHI AND YOU?
I...


I'M.
SEITA.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
I WAS THINKING OF OUR FIRST MEETING—
OH ——

NAKICHI? WHY DID YOU LET ME STAY?
I DON'T KNOW...
BUT...

IT'S BETTER TO HAVE COMPANY.
IT'S JUST NICER.
I DON'T REALLY MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.
NOT REALLY
ARE YOU HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT STAYING HERE SEITA?
THIS IS A NICE PLACE. AND IT HASN'T CHANGED
I'M MORE THAN HAPPY THAT YOU ALLOWED ME TO STAY HERE

IT'S MUCH NICER THAN STAYING ON MY OWN...
!!
I'M ALSO HAPPY STAYING WITH YOU.
RIGHT, THE SUN'S SETTING! LET'S GO BACK TO THE RIVER!
ERM
AH—
THE KID AND THE BINOCULARS ARE COMING BACK!

THAT'S RIGHT
SEITA?
WHAT?

I'M REALLY GLAD WE'RE NOT LIVING ALONE
...YEAH

# STORM IN HEAVEN

*Tsuki to Mizu no Yoru*
*Volume 01 Chapter 03*

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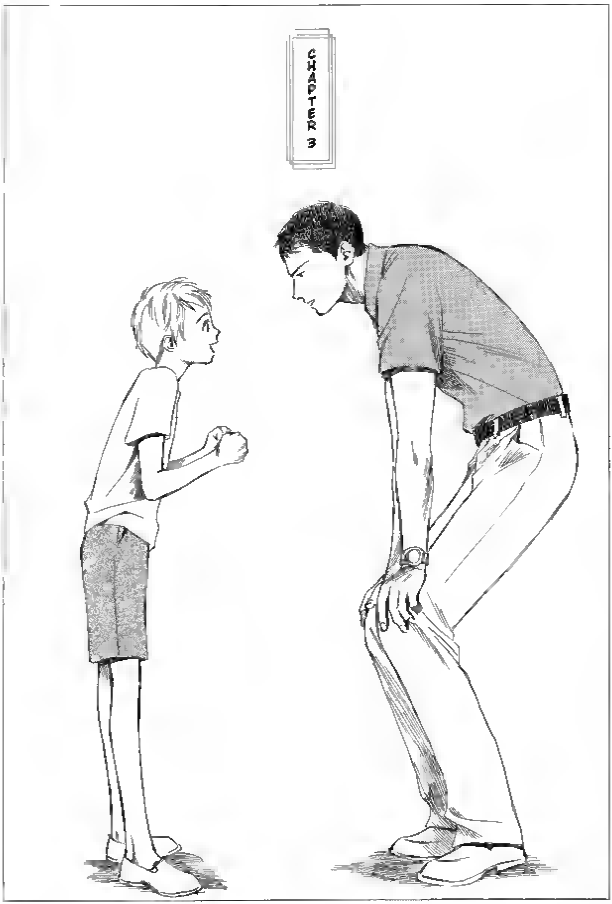

CHAPTER 3

EARLIER THIS SPRING,
MY SON, YOSHIHARU, MET WATER SPRITES BY THE RIVER
DAD?
HM?
AN ORDINARY PERSON WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED SUCH A TALE
NAKICHI AND SEITA ARE REALLY WONDERFUL!
HOWEVER ...
YEAH.

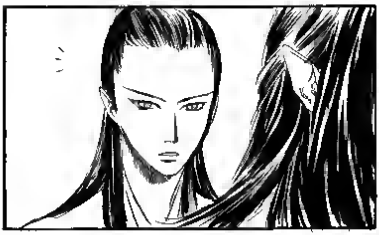
NAKICHI ——
SEITA ——
COME ON OUT AND PLAY!
SPLASH

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!
SE...

SPLASH
SWISH
SWISH
WHOA—I'VE BEEN WAITING, KID—
NAKIGHI, I BROUGHT THE BINOCULARS!

SWISH

WHO ARE YOU?



AH, HE'S MY FATHER.
NAKICHI, COULD HE BE...
IT'S THE KID WHO LOST THE POCKET WATCH!
OH!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HE ALSO KNOWS ABOUT YOU...

YOU'VE GROWN. I CAN HARDLY RECOGNIZE YOU.
YOU AND NAKICHI HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
BUT YOU HAVE, HARUHIKO.
THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU WAS WHEN I WAS ELEVEN
IT'S BEEN FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE THE LAST TIME WE'VE MET.

YOU'VE EVEN GOT A KID OF YOUR OWN
WHEN YOSHIHARU RETURNED WEARING YOUR ROBES, I WAS SHOCKED
HEY, DON'T YOU GET TOO CLOSE TO SEITA!
HO!
HAHAHA. HE REALLY HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL
You got that?"

DO YOU STILL REMEMBER? THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU HE SHOUTED AT ME AS WELL.
BECAUSE HE WANTED ME TO STAY AWAY FROM YOU.
YOU'RE VERY IMPORTANT TO NAKICHI
WHY ARE YOU ANGRY?

NO
CAN'T HE?
HE TOUCHED SEITA.
OOH, HE'S SO REALISTIC
REALLY
I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN OTHER PEOPLE TOUCH KOUSUKE EITHER.
WHO'S HE?
MY FRIEND
OH——

COME HERE
SURE!
YOU WANNA GO OVER THERE WITH ME?
THIS IS NO GOOD, YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING FROM HERE

DON'T TOUCH MY HEAD, GOT IT?

THIS IS REALLY GREAT!
WOW!
jump

HUP!

IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL!
SEE THE VIEW'S MUCH BETTER HERE, ISN'T IT?
KAY.
CAREFUL! IF YOU FALL IN, I'M NOT GOING TO SAVE YOU!

HEY. TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE
OKAY

FOR SAVING YOSHIHARU WHEN HE WAS DROWNING
WHAT FOR?
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT TO THANK YOU.

HE'S MY ONE AND ONLY SON.
IT REALLY AFFECTED ME WHEN I HEARD THAT HE ALMOST DROWNED,
SINCE I LET HIM GO OUT ALONE
SO NO MATTER WHAT, I WANTED TO THANK YOU

WHEN SPRING CAME, THE WEATHER WAS POOR SO I HAD TO HELP OUT IN THE FIELDS.
THAT'S WHY IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO RETURN.
THANK YOU.
WELL,

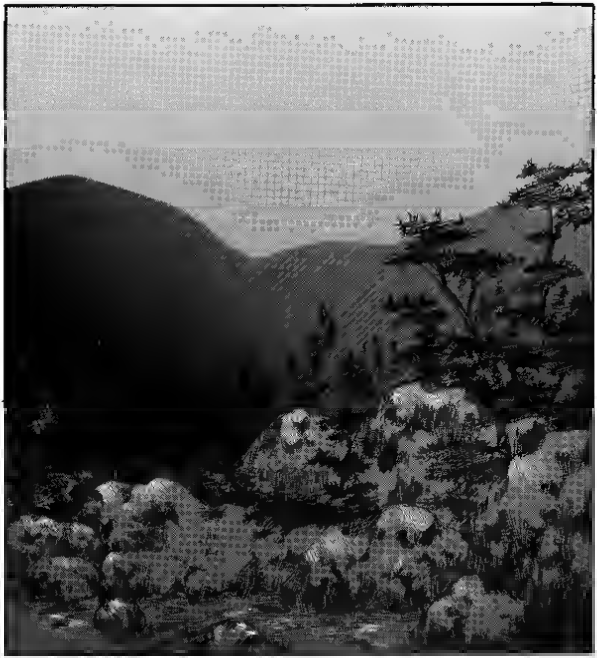
ACTUALLY...
IT WASN'T EASY FOR ME TO DECIDE TO WHETHER TO COME TODAY...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BECAUSE I DELIBERATELY FORGOT THAT INCIDENT AND HAD TO REMEMBER IT AGAIN BECAUSE OF YOSHIHARU
?
AH, IT'S OKAY EVEN IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND

WOW! I CAN SEE SO MANY WONDERFUL THINGS!
OH— MY EYES ARE SO TIRED
THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU TRIED TO SEE TOO MANY THINGS AT ONCE
TAKE A REST
YOU'RE HEAVY
SHUT UP...

YEAH?
NAKICHI?
OH,
YOU'VE GOT TO TEACH ME TO SWIM NEXT TIME WE MEET.. OKAY?

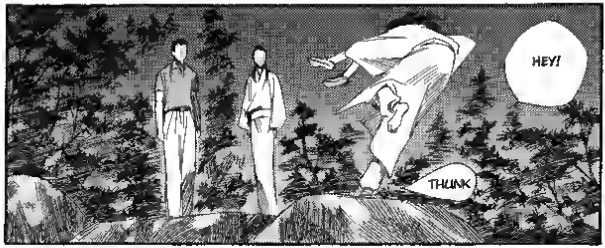
OKAY
REALLY?
YES!
SWIM?
I'LL BE THE FASTEST SWIMMER IN JAPAN!
But where are your gills?
THAT'S GREAT! A WATER SPRITE IS GOING TO TEACH ME TO SWIM!
IT'S A PINKY PROMISE THEN!
OKAY



YOU WERE ACTUALLY LYING WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D FORGOTTEN IT, WEREN'T YOU?
YOU REALLY COULDN'T FORGET ABOUT IT, RIGHT?

I DID COME IN THE END, BUT IT WAS JUST A LITTLE LATER THAN PROMISED
I'D BEST BE GOING IT'S YOSHIHARU'S BEDTIME

I'M SORRY...
FOR SAYING ALL THAT STRANGE STUFF
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DISTURB YOU
IT'S OKAY.


HEY!
THUNK

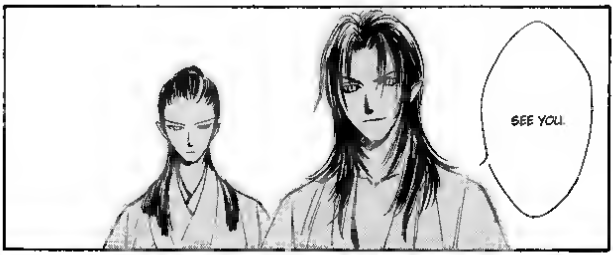
THAT'S RIGHT IT'S HIS BEDTIME

THE BRAT FELL ASLEEP.

HMPH, REALLY?
THANK YOU.

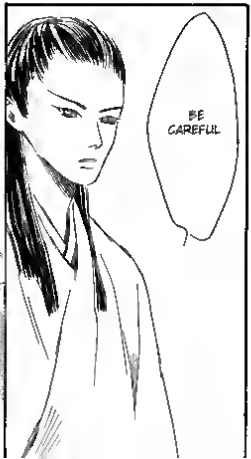
COME ON. LET'S GO HOME, YOSHIHARU.
MN

HE'S REALLY AN INTERESTING KID.
SO HE'S A GOOD KID?
HE'S VERY DIFFERENT FROM YOU.
HAHA IS THAT RIGHT?


SEE YOU.

TAKE CARE.

THANKS


BE CAREFUL.

WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?
A LOT OF THINGS
REALLY?

DAD...
I WANT...TO COME OUT HERE AGAIN...

# STORM IN HEAVEN

HARUHIKO

THUNK
THUNK
THUNK

CHE!
THAT IDIOT!
WHO
PANT
PANT

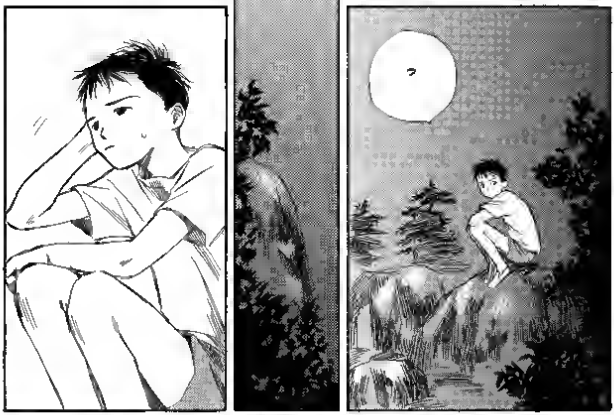
YOU LOST THE POCKET WATCH DIDN'T YOU?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIE ANYMORE!
DEAR.
DO YOU KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THAT WATCH IS?
YES.
THERE'S NO DINNER FOR YOU. GO FIND IT!
DON'T COME BACK IF YOU CAN'T FIND IT,
UNDER-STAND?
DEAR!

LOOK AT THIS...
IT'S SO DARK HOW CAN I POSSIBLY FIND IT?
QUIT KIDDING AROUND!
YOU WANT ME TO FIND IT?
KICK
I CAN'T SEE A THING.

FATHER IS ALWAYS LIKE THIS

HE KNOWS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE BUT HE WANTS ME TO DO IT ANYWAY
FINE! I'LL JUST STAY HERE FOREVER!
SINCE I DOUBT HE'D WORRY ABOUT ME ANYWAY...
THAT'S PROBABLY IT

SPLASH
IF NOT, HE WOULDN'T MAKE ME GO FIND IT AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT!
HE'S ONLY WORRIED ABOUT THAT STUPID WATCH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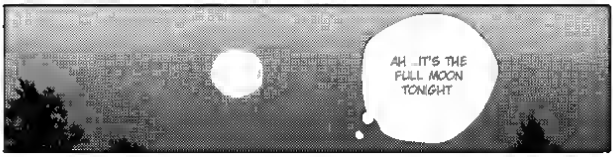

AH ...IT'S THE FULL MOON TONIGHT

SPLASH
IT'S SO BRIGHT!
OH I'M SO HUNGRY
CLICK

GLANCE
SPLASH
WHAT WAS THAT?

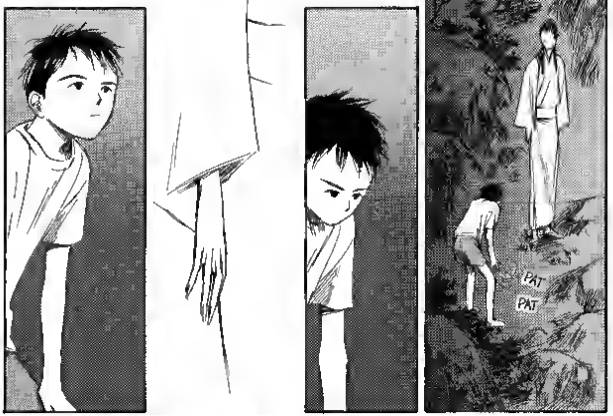
SPLASH
IS IT COMING THIS WAY?

!?
A CHILD?

DASH
WHAT WAS THAT? AND HOW DID HE WALK OUT FROM THE WATER?
WAIT—
IF YOU RUN LIKE THAT, YOU'LL
THUD
THUNK
ACK!
OH——
IT HURTS!
ARE YOU OKAY?

DID I SCARE YOU?
ARE YOU HURT?
RED EYES...
AND POINTY EARS
DID YOU INJURE YOURSELF WHEN YOU FELL?

THIS GUY...
AH... I... I'M FINE...
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
THE RIVER IS VERY DIFFERENT AT NIGHT...
IT'S VERY DANGEROUS FOR A CHILD TO BE HERE ALONE
IT'S BEST IF YOU GO HOME NOW
...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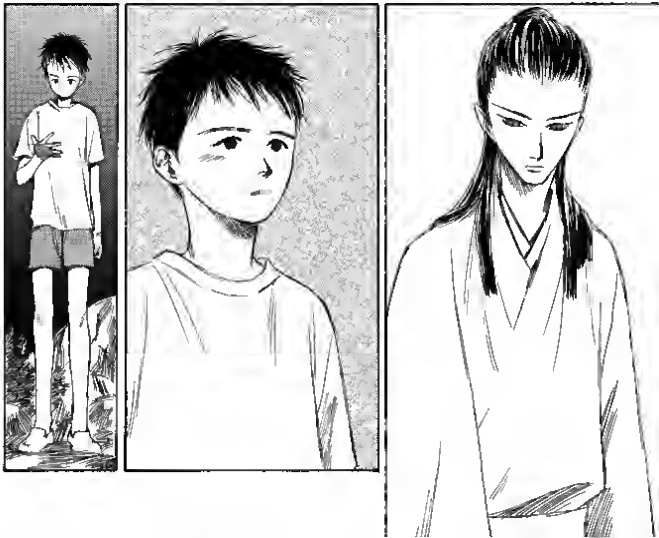


IS THAT
WEBBING?
YES
CAN I TOUCH IT?

WOW!
WHY DO YOU HAVE THE WEBBING?
I AM...
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?

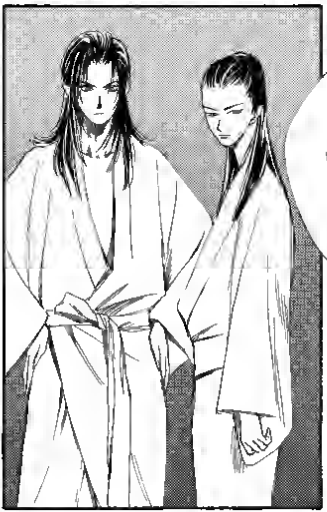
EH?
SPLASH
SWISH
HURRY UP AND LET GO OF SEITA!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BRAT!

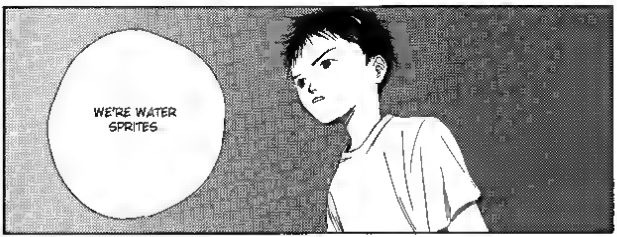
NAKICHI. HE'S JUST A CHILD.
SO WHAT?
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HE GONNA DO?

BUT HE——
NAKICHI.
YOU'RE TOO MUCH!

GRR!

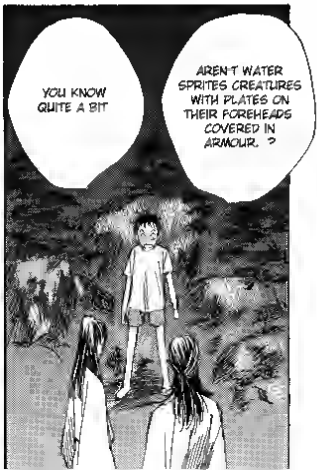


I DON'T REALLY GET ALL OF THIS
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?


WE'RE WATER SPRITES.

EH?
WATER...
WATER SPRITES?

CAN IT BE REAL...?
OH, RIGHT!
THE WEBBING ON HIS HANDS


YOU KNOW QUITE A BIT
AREN'T WATER SPRITES CREATURES WITH PLATES ON THEIR FOREHEADS COVERED IN ARMOUR...?

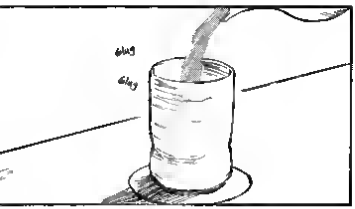
SO WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU DON'T BELIEVE US?!
FOR REAL?

IT'S NORMAL FOR WATER SPRITES TO BE BY THE RIVER
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
IT'S VERY DANGEROUS FOR A HUMAN CHILD TO BE BY THE RIVER SO LATE IN THE EVENING

WHY NOT?
I'M NOT GOING...
HURRY UP AND GO HOME...
IS THERE SOME REASON?
FATHER...
HATES ME...
DEAR...

HARUHIKO'S BEEN GONE FOR A WHILE. I WONDER IF HE'S OKAY...
I SUPPOSE HE'S GONE TO RETRIEVE THE WATCH...
BRING THE TEA
COMING...


clink
clink

THAT CHILD HAS BEEN SPOILT ROTTEN —

IT'S GOOD TO TREAT HIM LIKE THIS ONCE IN A WHILE.

SIP

I SEE...

YOU HAVE TO FIND THE WATCH...
YEAH...
I LOST IT NEAR HERE DURING THE DAY

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE IT TO HIM?
THAT'S SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO HIS FATHER.
MMF——
WHAT...?
AH!
RUSTLE

THAT...
THAT'S MY FATHER'S!
IS NOT!
I FOUND IT
IT'S MINE!
FUNE
WHAT'D YOU SAY?
GIVE IT BACK!
HOW STRANGE
AT THAT MOMENT I WAS THINKING THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER IF HE GAVE IT BACK OR NOT

!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
GIVE IT BACK!
BUT... WHY DID I STILL DO THAT?
NO! I LIKE THIS THING!
THAT'S MY FATHER'S!

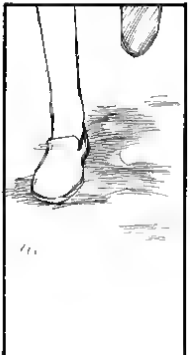
I HATED FATHER I REALLY DID
BUT WHY DID I...
YOU HATE YOUR FATHER, DON'T YOU?
IT'S MINE!
THEN WHY DO YOU STILL NEED IT?!
AH...
NAKICHI

THAT'S ENOUGH. WHY DON'T YOU RETURN IT ALREADY?
WHY?
DIDN'T HE SAY HE WASN'T GOING BACK?
IS IT REALLY OKAY TO LOSE THE WATCH?
PLEASE...
RETURN IT TO ME
I'M BEGGING YOU...

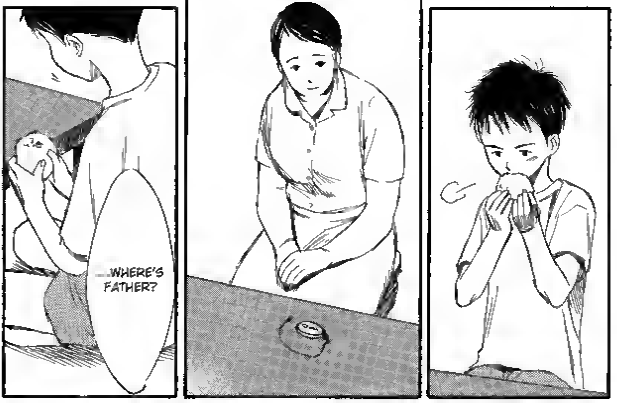
YOU'RE TOO CUNNING
HURRY,
APOLOGIZE TO NAKIGHI

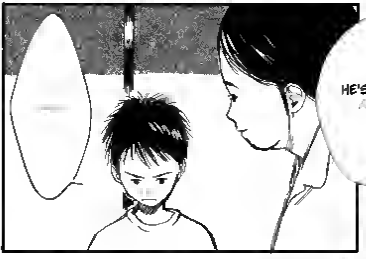
COME ON
SEITA, ARE YOU ANGRY?
NOT REALLY
THANK YOU
I CAN FIND MY WAY BACK FROM HERE

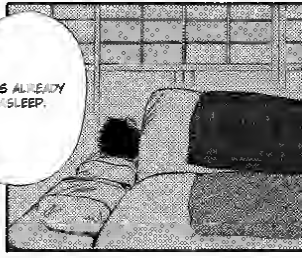
BE CAREFUL.
OKAY.



HARUHIKO!
GUNCY
..MAMA?
I BET YOU'RE HUNGRY?
I MADE SOME RICE BALLS FOR YOU. HURRY UP AND EAT


...WHERE'S FATHER?




HE'S ALREADY ASLEEP.

HE WAS WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE...
EH?
HE JUST WENT IN.

HE ONLY WENT IN AFTER HE HEARD YOUR FOOTSTEPS
HARUHIKO,
YOU HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO FATHER TOMORROW, OK?
I'LL COME WITH YOU,
OK?
I STARTED TO REALIZE
YEAH...

OKAY?
THAT FATHER DOESN'T REALLY HATE ME

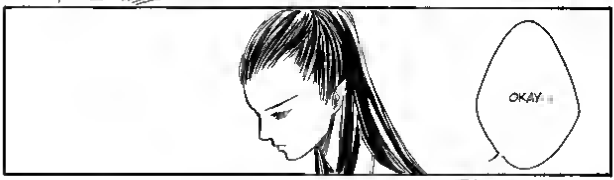
WHAT IS IT?
DO YOU LIKE NAKIGHI?
I REALLY LIKE HIM.
I UNDERSTAND

THE WATER SPRITES IN MY MEMORIES ARE BEAUTIFUL BUT ALOOF CREATURES...
NEVER IMAGINED SUCH GENTLE WATER SPRITES ACTUALLY EXISTED! IT REALLY SURPRISED ME
WHEN I WAS INJURED HE CAME TO HELP HE GAVE ME QUITE A SHOCK
CAN YOU FLY?
ARE YOU INJURED?
BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO KNOW HOW EMBARRASSED I WAS I—

PARTICULARLY BECAUSE I LIKE HIM
I KNOW
MMM

I SHOULD BE GOING BACK
I DOUBT NAKIGI WILL BE RETURNING HERE TODAY
I'LL COME AGAIN WHEN WE'RE ON BETTER TERMS

TELL NAKICHI I'M SORRY...
SEITA...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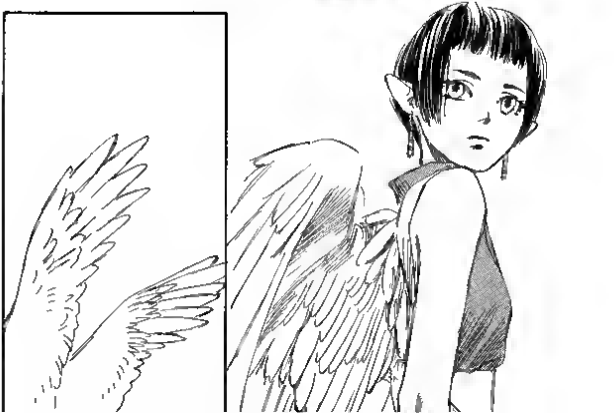
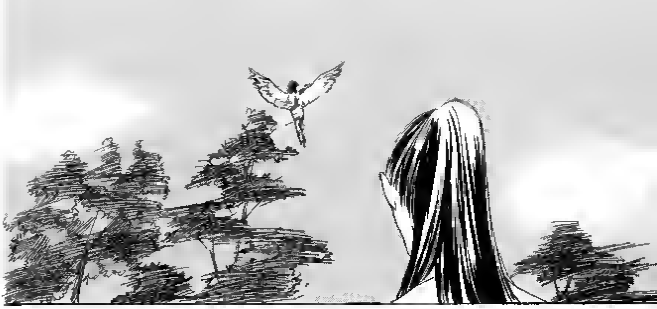
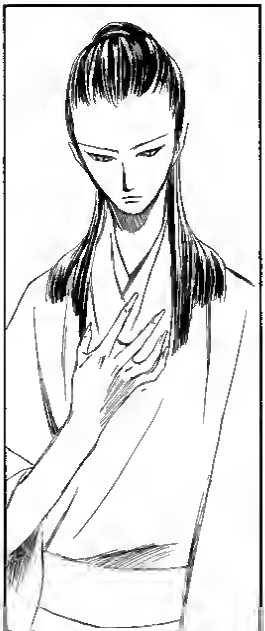
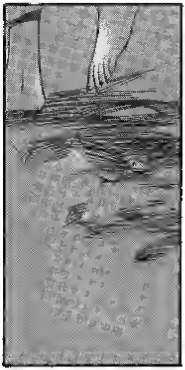






KICHI

NAKICHI...



SEITA,
TURN AROUND
YOUR HAIR TIE CAME LOOSE

...WHERE'S YUUKO?
SHE WENT BACK.
DID SHE SAY ANYTHING?

SHE SAID SHE'D COME AGAIN.
IS THAT ALL?
SEITA?

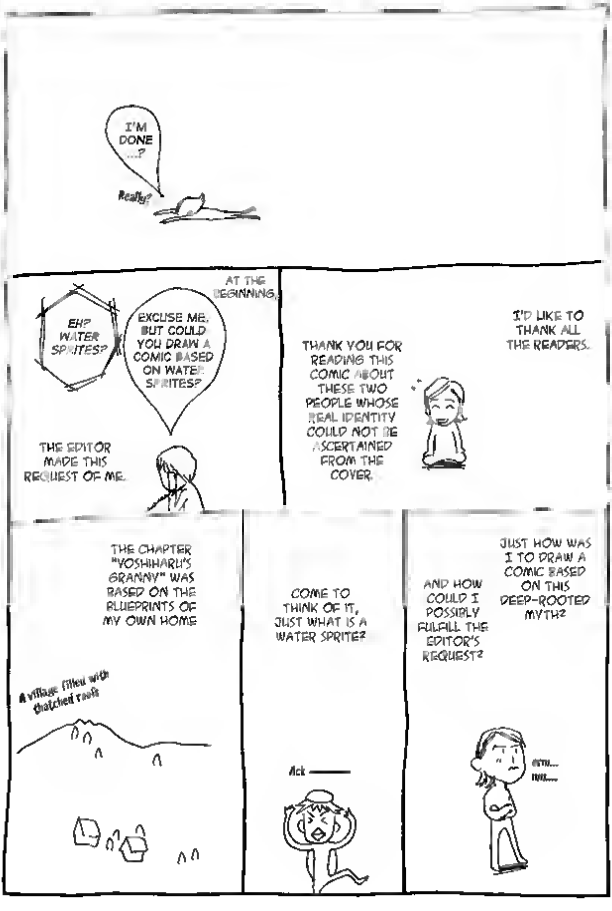
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU REALLY TIRED?
A LITTLE ...

YOU LOOK REALLY EXHAUSTED. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HOW CAN I MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?

SEITA...?

JUST KEEP ME COMPANY...
I'LL BE BETTER IN A BIT.
IS THAT ALL?

YES, THAT'S ALL IT TAKES.


I'M DONE ...?
Really?
AT THE BEGINNING,
EH? WATER SPRITES?
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HAD A BEING THAT STAYED IN THE LAKE.

AND I RECALL HEARING THAT THIS RIVER...

THE RIVER WAS NEXT TO THE HOUSE, AND I USED TO PLAY THERE.

NOT BAD, EH?

smile

RIGHT, THIS WILL BE MY WATER SPRITE!

WHEN I REMEMBERED THIS LEGEND

STILL, BECAUSE THIS STORY STARTED OUT WITH A LEGEND AS ITS BASIS...

Then how should I continue it?

Say what?

Do you know how to swim?

THUS NAKICHI AND SEITA WERE BORN

THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO USE THIS AS THE STORYLINE

?
THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF YOSHIHARU'S FATHER...
AND I THOUGHT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE...
<smile>

BECAUSE OF THIS, I HAD TO FILL IN THE DETAILS.
FOR INSTANCE...
Really?
But

AND YOSHIHARU LEAD TO THE BIRTH OF KOUSUKE...
Ah...what, Ariana! did you wake Uno Ume...?

COME ON, YOSHIHARU!
Uhyuh!
Wake me! Wake me! I gotta, fast, commute!
AND OTHER STUFF LIKE THAT. BUT WHAT SHOULD I DRAW AFTER THAT?

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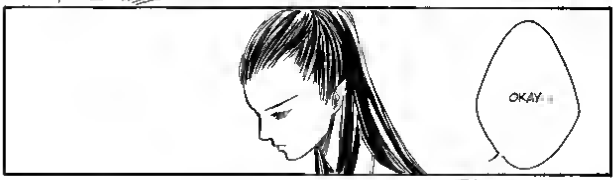
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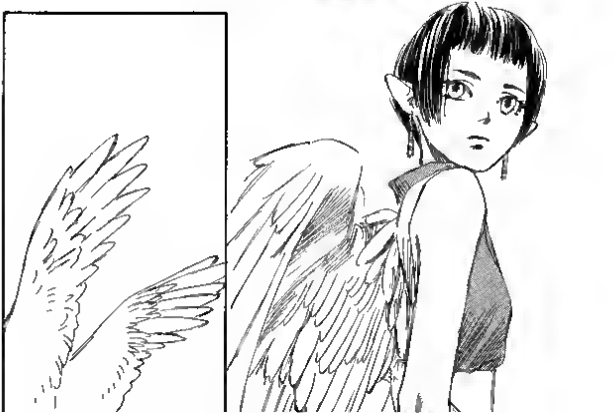

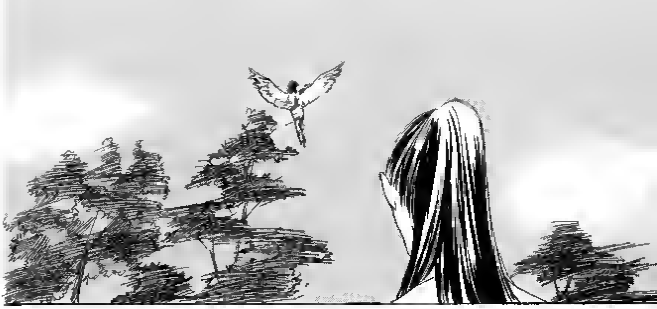

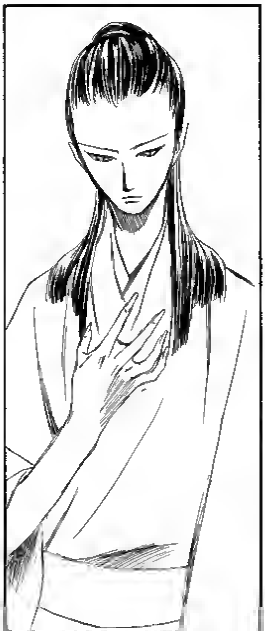

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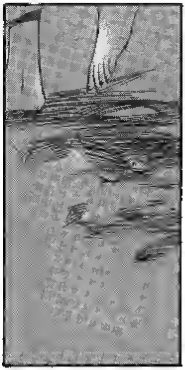

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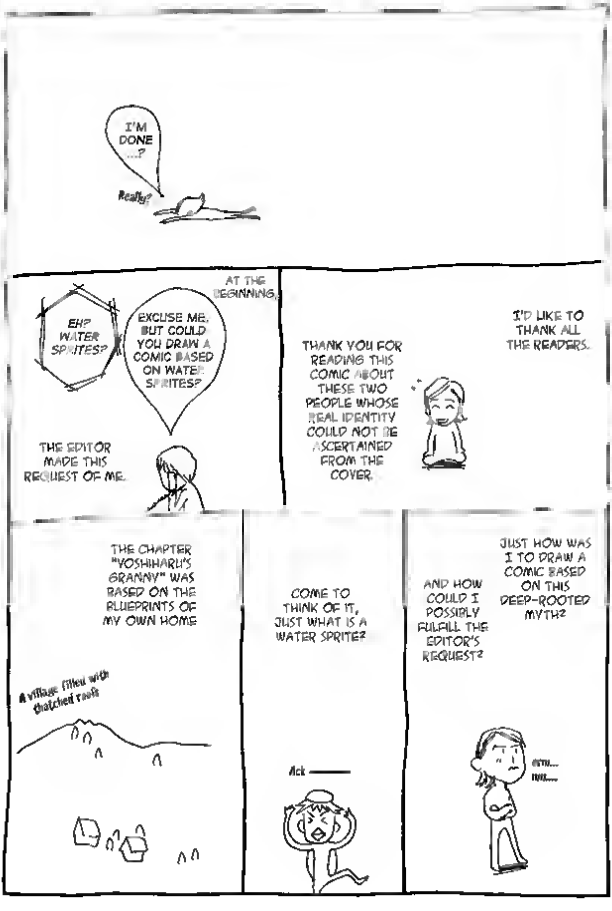
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